

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER
QUALITY STUDY (TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN DEVELOPMENT)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) to address multiple impairments in the Chowan River Basin (including portions of the Upper Nottoway River watershed and the Upper Blackwater River watershed). The affected streams were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and Virginia's 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. The streams are therefore not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (swimmable) Designated Use.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The TMDL has been completed and is available at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

Section 62.1-44.19:7.A and Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

The impairments included in the Upper Nottoway River section include: 17.76 miles of the Nottoway River, 9.85 miles of the Little Nottoway River, 10.35 miles of Big Hounds Creek and 7.17 miles of Beaverpond Creek. These impairments are located in Prince Edward, Nottoway, Lunenburg, and Dinwiddie Counties.

A public meeting on the development of the Upper Nottoway River section of the Chowan River Basin TMDL Implementation Plan will be held on **Monday, June 27, 2005, 7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium of the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, located at 2375 Darvills Road in Blackstone, VA. A map to the facilities can be found on the internet at <http://www.vt.edu>. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed reductions in fecal bacteria needed in the Upper Nottoway River impairments and to present the draft Implementation Plan.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL development will end on July 28, 2005. A fact sheet on the development of the Chowan River TMDL IP is available upon request or can be viewed on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Kelly Wills. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Kelly J. Wills, Department of Environmental Quality, 7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24502, telephone (434) 582-5120 ext. 6042, fax (434) 582-5125, or e-mail kjwills@deq.virginia.gov.